

REVIEW OF WORK DONE IN LONGEST SITTING OF CONGRESS IN HISTORY OF THE NATION

Washington, Oct. 16.—Adjournment next week of the present congress was presaged in an agreement reached in the senate today, under which the final vote on the pending war revenue bill will be taken to-morrow.

(Associated Press Correspondence) Washington, Oct. 4.—The first regular session of the sixty-third congress which began December 1, 1913, is about to be concluded, begun as an uninterrupted continuation of the special session called by President Wilson a month after his inauguration, it is the longest sitting for Congress in the history of the nation.

The work, including that of the special session for tariff reform and income tax provisions, represents the legislative achievement of the first Democratic congress since March 4, 1907. The chief enactments include the new currency law, anti-trust legislation, repeal of the toll exemption provision for American coastwise ships in the Panama canal, and the provisions to build a government railroad in Alaska.

The congress was remarkable for the fact that in less than two years it had to deal with conditions arising from two foreign wars—the revolution in Mexico and the European conflict—and was on the verge of having a war between the United States and Mexico. Both of these situations demanded emergency legislation, some of which may have far-reaching effect upon the future course of the nation in its foreign affairs.

As a rule the utmost cooperation between Democratic leaders in congress and President Wilson marked the session, although one notable break occurred in the party over repeal of the tolls provision of the Panama canal act. This led to an alignment which placed the president and some of the party leaders on opposite sides. Among those who took issue with the chief executive were Speaker Clark and Majority Leader Underwood. Speaker Clark's defense of his opposition to repeal furnished one of the most spectacular climaxes in the history of the house.

The president appeared before joint sessions of the house and senate on five occasions. He delivered his general legislative message December 2. Subsequent messages were on anti-trust legislation, the Mexican situation, pleading for continuation of "watchful waiting," the tolls repeal bill and the necessity for a war revenue bill.

Most important of the laws enacted by the congress since December 1, 1913, were:

Federal Reserve Act, creating twelve regional reserve banks, and federal reserve board of control and reforming the currency system.

Federal Trade Commission Act, creating a commission of five members and absorbing the bureau of corporations to investigate organization, conduct and practice of industrial corporations; inquire into unfair competition and alleged violation of anti-trust acts; to aid the department of justice and the courts in the prosecution of business offenders; to make public information deemed to be of public interest relating to industrial conditions and to recommend remedial business legislation.

The Clayton Anti-trust Act which provides for guilt of individuals connected with corporations convicted of violating the anti-trust laws, limits interlocking directorates, prohibits holding companies which will lessen competition, prevents exclusive and long contracts, liberalizes laws relating to injunction and contempt and exempts from prosecution under anti-trust laws agricultural, horticultural, fraternal and labor organizations.

Act repealing provisions of the Panama canal law exempting from payment of tolls American vessels engaged in coast wise shipping of the United States.

The Alaskan railroad law, providing for government construction and operation of 1,000 miles of railroad with telegraph and telephone lines, from the lower Pacific coast to interior waters and mineral region of Alaska at a cost not to exceed \$25,000,000.

Law placing on a war footing the volunteer militia and naval militia of the states subjecting them in time of war to the call of the signal corps of the army.

Law regulating cotton future sales on stock exchanges, providing a tax of 2 cents a pound on sales for future delivery unless actually delivered under conditions and grades established by the department of agriculture.

Overshadowing much other important legislation were measures demanded by the extraordinary conditions precipitated by the war in Europe. Such legislation, enacted or about to become law included the following:

Great Britain, Japan, Italy, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Switzerland, Paraguay, Austria-Hungary, the Netherlands and Salvador.

Later in the session and in the midst of the European conflict, the senate upon recommendation of the foreign relations committee ratified new treaties providing for peace commissions of investigation in international disputes not settled by ordinary diplomacy with 23 foreign nations as follows:

Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy, Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Peru, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Honduras, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Paraguay, Great Britain, France and Spain. Similar treaties negotiated and agreed for ratification but held up in the senate for further consideration are with China, Panama and San Domingo. A similar treaty has been negotiated with Russia to be sent to the senate later.

Law creating in the treasury department a bureau of war risk insurance appropriating \$5,000,000 to insure ships of American registry.

against hazards of the European war. Appropriation of \$2,750,000 for protection and transportation of American citizens stranded in European war zones and authorizing the American Red Cross society to charter a ship of foreign register and revenue bill will be taken to-morrow.

Appropriation of \$1,900,000 for extra expense of diplomatic and consular service in taking over embassies, legations and consular offices of war-victims in Europe.

Before these unforeseen conditions which demanded decisive action to cope with the European situation, Congress had on its hands for most of the session the threatening Mexican embroilery which came to a climax in the act of reprisal by the government in the seizure of Vera Cruz. Many times the situation was critical, and actual warfare with Mexico was prevented only by the course of the administration and the cool hands of congress in preventing untoward orational outbreaks and unwise action. Legislation growing out of the Mexican controversy was limited to the following:

Resolution expressing congress' justification of employment by the president of armed forces of the United States to enforce demands for affronts and indignities against this nation and disclaiming any hostility to the Mexican people or any purpose to make war on Mexico.

Other legislation placed upon the statute books included scores of local improvements, laws, many measures relating to land entries and the following:

General appropriations for government expenses aggregating approximately \$1,200,000,000.

Appropriation of \$20,000,000 for rivers and harbors improvements at discretion of war department, passed as substitute for \$45,000,000 specific appropriation bill after prolonged filibuster.

Law granting public water supply to city of San Francisco from Hatchet Valley in Yosemite National Park.

Act prohibiting importation of opium except for medicinal purposes under treaty regulation and placing prohibition tax of \$250 a pound on opium manufactured in the United States for smoking purposes.

Act authorizing payment of money orders at any money order office in country although drawn on specified office.

Appropriation of \$600,000 for treatment and eradication of hog cholera and dourine.

Law limiting labor to women in the District of Columbia to 8 hours a day.

Agricultural Extension Act providing for cooperation between department of agriculture and state agricultural colleges in diffusion of information relating to agriculture and home economics and providing for an annual annual appropriation of nearly \$5,000,000.

An act raising the American diplomatic agencies in Argentina and Chile from legations to embassies.

A provides for election of United States senators under laws governing election of members of house of representatives in states where legislatures had not passed special election laws.

Measure for limitation of campaign contributions.

Constitutional amendment limiting service of a president of United States to a single term.

National act to building of good roads, bills for which were reported this session.

Reorganization of the civil service.

Measure providing for government licensing of cotton ware houses, which passed the senate but was held up in the house, and other measures contemplated for relief of cotton situation in the south.

Interesting features of the session were controversies in the senate over several of the president's appointments. The nomination of H. M. Pendleton of Peoria, to be ambassador to Russia, was withdrawn by the president following which Mr. Pendleton asked the president to withdraw his name. The nomination of Thomas D. Jones of Chicago, director of the International Harvester company as a member of the federal reserve board, was withdrawn by the senate, following which Mr. Pendleton asked the president to withdraw his name. The nomination of Paul M. Warburg of New York, as member of the federal reserve board, also stirred up a controversy. Mr. Warburg once refusing to appear before the banking and currency committee. He eventually yielded and his appointment was confirmed by the senate.

Two senators, William O. Bradley of Kentucky, Republican, and Augustus O. Bacon of Georgia, Democratic, died during the session. Three deaths occurred in the house membership—Representatives Irving S. Parker of Iowa, Robert G. Bremer of New Jersey, and William Richardson of Alabama, all Democrats.

Later in the session and in the midst of the European conflict, the senate upon recommendation of the foreign relations committee ratified new treaties providing for peace commissions of investigation in international disputes not settled by ordinary diplomacy with 23 foreign nations as follows:

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The present headquarters are at Westminster and local stations are to be established in various parts of the metropolis. Other forces are to be formed in the provinces and one has already been started in Scotland. The minimum duty will be two hours a day and the maximum eight. The women will work in the streets, parks, railway depots and police courts but at present will do no patrolling on regular beats. Their chief work will be to look after the interests of child-

ren.

Investigations by congress were less

than has been undertaken in recent

sessions. The special lobby investigating committee of the senate, however, continued its existence and probed into alleged lobbying in connection with the passage of the Panama canal act, and the subsequent repeal of the tolls exemption provision. The committee has not yet made a final report. The house lobby committee reported a resolution of censure for Representative McCormick of Illinois, who resigned his office. Investigation by the interstate commerce commission into the financial operation of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad company and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railway were instituted by resolutions of congress. Investigations also were conducted by senate and house committees into the West Virginia coal strike, the Michigan copper strike and the Colorado coal strike. Inquiries leading to impeachment proceedings which eventually were dropped were conducted by the house judiciary committee into the affairs of Judge Daniel Thew Wright, of the supreme court of the District of Columbia and Emory F. Speer, United States circuit judge for the southern district of Georgia.

Notwithstanding its achievements which demanded decisive action to cope with the European situation, Congress had on its hands for most of the session the threatening Mexican embroilery which came to a climax in the act of reprisal by the government in the seizure of Vera Cruz. Many times the situation was critical, and actual warfare with Mexico was prevented only by the course of the administration and the cool hands of congress in preventing untoward orational outbreaks and unwise action. Legislation growing out of the Mexican controversy was limited to the following:

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